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Don't forget to sign up on the reflector!!

December 2014 Edition

From the President

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. We are excited about the activities for the club in 2015. We are starting out with a presentation by Mike Thompson, AE0MT, on Arduinos and Ham Radio. If you would like to see some of the ways arduino microprocessors are being used or interested in why they are a big deal, you should get some useful information from Mike.

We are also getting ready for our next buildathon in March - there will be more information next month.

Some of you have asked about the survey sent out recently. The board will be reviewing the results of the survey many of you took a couple of months ago and we should have more to report in our next newsletter and Feb meeting. Overall you were very affirming of the direction of the club, but there were also some excellent comments for the board to discuss and think through.

So I hope to see you at the meeting Saturday, Jan 3rd, to start out the New

Year right. Remember to bring all of your new projects and stories to share.

73 de chuck ka8hde

December Meeting Minutes

Chuck Stroud, KA8HDE, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. 23 were in attendance.

Old Business:

- October meeting minutes were approved.
- The Treasurer, Paul Bushouse, N0TYE, reports that the balance is \$1612.51.
- The November Build-a-Thon was discussed. By all accounts a good time was had by all.

New Business:

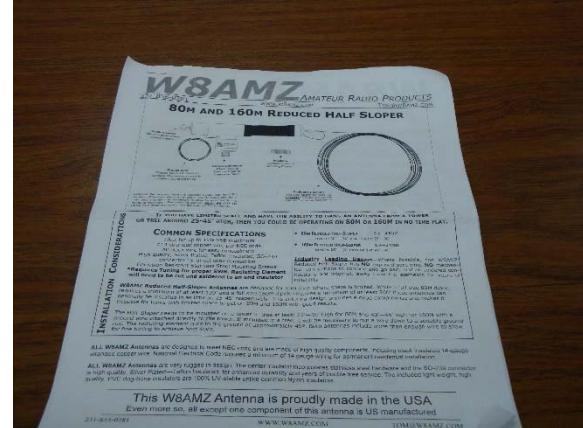
- The group unanimously elected Russ Ramirez, K0WFS for Vice President, Paul Bushouse, N0TYE for Treasurer and Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ for Board Member at Large.

The group thanked Larry Gaalaas, KB0R and Tom Kent, WM0SS for their service over the past two years.

Show & Tell

Steve Ulrich, NW0C, brought in a built surface mount Christmas tree. This is a small kit suitable for someone who wants to get some experience with surface mount devices. He also brought in a Kester flux pen which he reports works well and does not leave a lot of residue. Additionally, Steve brought in a built version of Craig's 40 meter receiver. He said that it went together easily in a couple of hours and worked great.

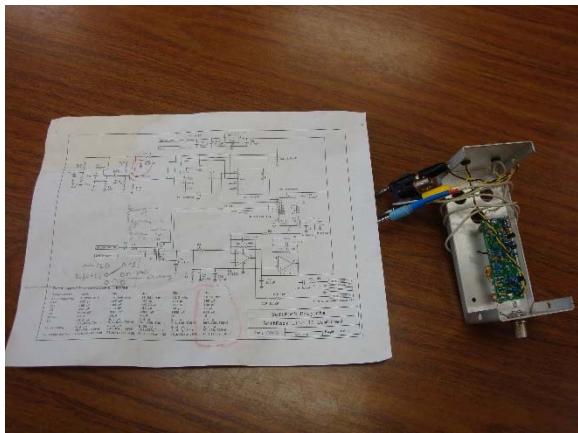
Dave Kent, W0RU, told us about his W8AMZ reduced half sloper for 160 meters. He is using a tree for support and got it installed with the help of a tennis ball launcher. He loads it up with 500 watts and has made many contacts and brought in a few QSL cards he has received.



Allan Anderson, WB0WHD, brought in an Arduino based component tester. It provides capacitance and inductance measurements that compare with a commercial LCR meter.



John Krawczak, KJ0P, brought in the Softrock Light for 20 meters that he built at the build-a-thon. He had it mounted in a metal case and verified operation using a CW reader. John also described a radio display of old military radios spanning from WWI to the Vietnam War era.

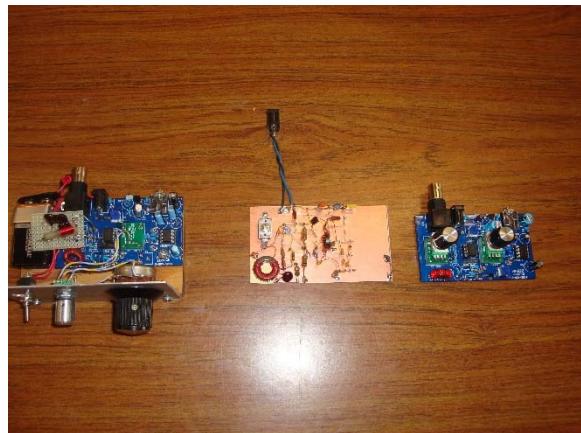


Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ, brought in his latest CW keyer which should be shortly available. He also brought in a Pico Keyer for comparison. Craig discussed where he was at with his 40 meter receiver and also brought in for comparison a Ramsey kit he had constructed and a Neophyte receiver he constructed. This radio uses a similar chip set but handles the tuning differently.

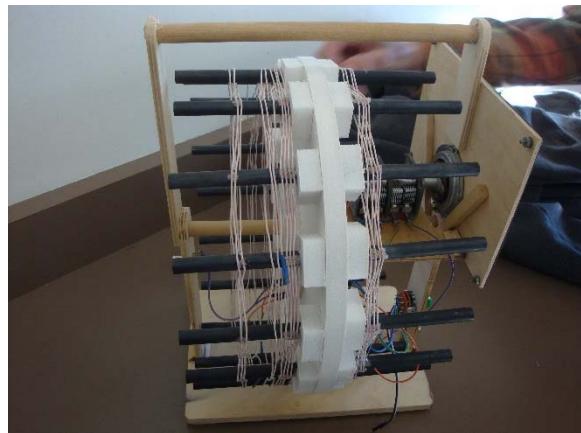
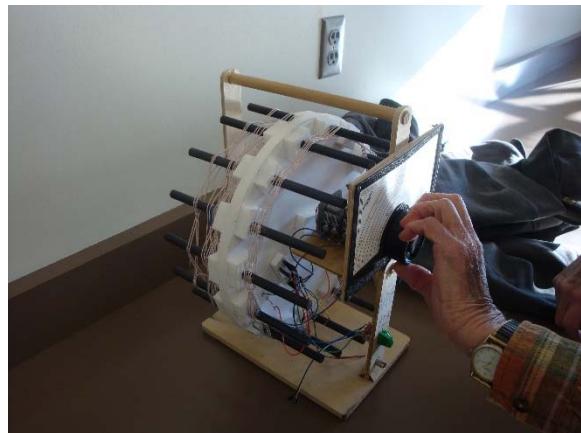
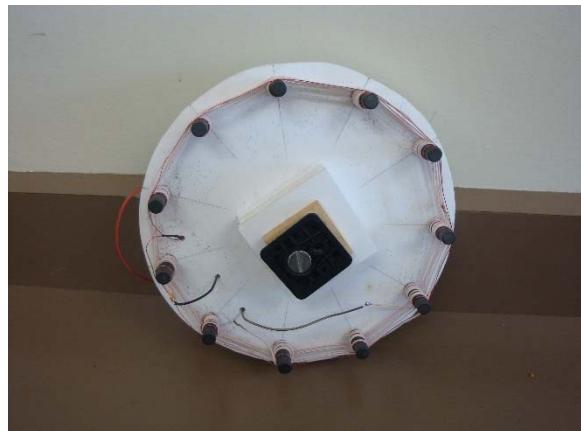
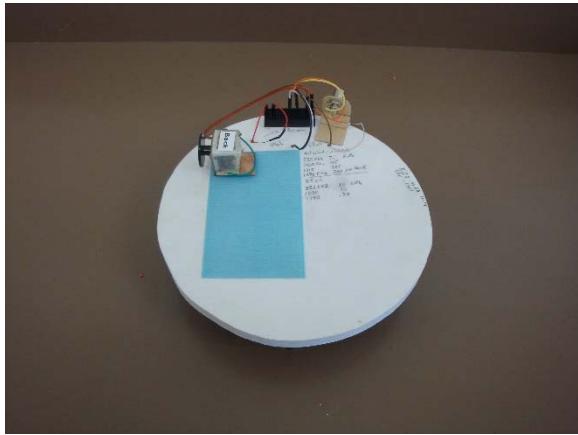


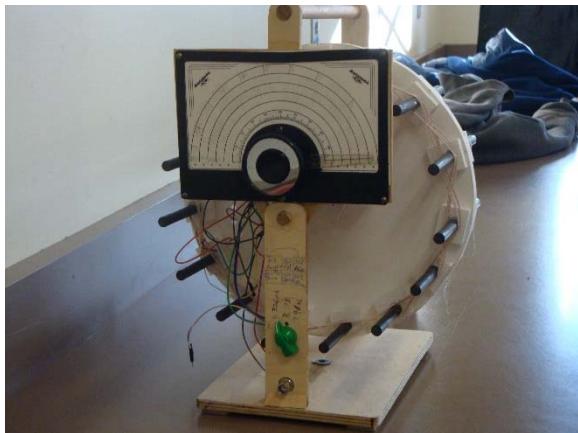


Mert Nellis, W0UFO, discussed a separate VFO to be used with Craig's 40 meter receiver. He also showed us the power amp he has been working on for 80 meters. He also brought in a version of Craig's receiver which he had modified a bit to bring the controls out to a front panel.



Mike Burk, KD0JYE, showed us two antennas he has been experimenting with which use ferrite rods. The antennas are presently for receiving and work on the broadcast bands. Both antennas were tunable. Mike described the various things he had tried to improve performance and how he compares the results.





December Presentation

Jon Platt, W0ZQ spoke on The World Above 50 MHz Jon started his discussion at 50 MHz and worked his way up through the microwave bands. He described the different types of propagation the various bands experience. Jon went on to discuss the equipment that was necessary to get on these bands and how to assemble a station.

For those interested Jon provided a number of web sites. The local group is: Northern Lights Radio Society.
<http://www.nlrs.org/>

Also of interest is the Central States VHF Society <http://www.csvhfs.org/>

Jon's presentation was informative and may very well prompt a number of us to try some of these bands.

Thank you for a great presentation!!



Respectfully submitted,
Steve, NW0C

Club Officers:

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Treasurer: Paul Bushouse/N0TYE
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